

Viral Culture Specimen Selection by Suspected Virus

Culture Specimen Source	Suspected Virus										Comments
	Adeno	CMV	Enterov*	HSV	Influenza	Measles (Rubeola)	Mumps	Para-influenza	RSV	VZV	
Amniotic Fluid		++ ¹									
Bronchial Wash (BW)	+	++ ²			+			+	+		Lower respiratory illness. More toxic to cell culture than BAL
Broncoalveolar Lavage (BAL)	+	++ ²		+	+			+	+		Lower respiratory illness
Buccal/Salival Swab							++				
CSF			++	Not Accepted			+				Viral titers tend to be low. Not accepted for HSV culture.
Eye Swab or Scraping	++ ⁴		++ ⁴	++ ⁴						++ ⁴	Conjunctival or Corneal specimen
Lesion Swab	+		++	++		++				++	
Myocardial Fluid or biopsy	+		+								
Nasal Wash	++		++		++			++	++		
Nasal Swab	+		+		+			+	+		
Nasopharyngeal (NP) Swab	++		++		++	++	+	++	++		
NP Aspirate or Wash	++		++		++	++	+	++	++		
Oral/Mouth/Lip Swab	+			++							
Pericardial Fluid or biopsy	+		+								
Pleural Fluid	+		+		+			+	+		
Rectal Swab	+		+								
Sputum	+	+			+			+	+		Accepted from patients with Lower Respiratory Illness
Stool (Feces)	++		++								
Stool Swab	++		++								
Tissue - Lung		++ ²			+			+	+		Lower respiratory illness
Tissue - Other Target Organ		+	+	Brain							
Throat Wash	+		+	+	+	+		+	+	++ ¹	
Throat Swab	++	++ ^{1,2,5}	++	+	+	++	+	++	++	++ ¹	
Throat/NP Swab combined	+		+		++	++	+	++	++		
Tracheal Aspirate	+	+			+			+	+		Accepted from patients with Lower Respiratory Illness
Urine	++ ⁶	++		+							Not recommended for Mumps culture
Urogenital Swab	+			++						+	

*Includes Echo, Coxsackie A and Coxsackie B, Enterov, and Polio viruses)

+ = Accepted specimen

++ = Preferred specimen

¹Suspected congenital/neonatal infection

³Mumps-associated encephalitis/meningitis - Notify KHEL

⁵Mono-Like Syndrome

²Immune-compromized patient

⁴Keratitis or Conjunctivitis

⁶Hemorrhagic Cystitis.